

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 through 11. (Cancelled)

12. (New) A method of designing an assessment, the method comprising:  
receiving subject matter information related to one or more subject matters of an assessment;  
receiving requirements information related to one or more requirements for an assessment;  
storing the subject matter information and the requirements information in a database;  
generating one or more trifles, wherein each trifle is based on one or more of the subject matter information and the requirements information;  
storing the trifles in the database;  
generating one or more task models, wherein each task model is based on at least one trifle;  
storing the task models in the database;  
generating one or more student models, wherein each student model is based on at least one trifle;  
storing the student models in the database;  
generating one or more evidence models, wherein each evidence model is based on at least one trifle;  
storing the evidence models in the database;  
generating one or more tasks, wherein each task is based on one or more of the task models; and

generating an assessment, wherein each assessment comprises one or more tasks, an evidence model corresponding to each task, and one or more student models.

13. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein the subject matter information comprises one or more of an image; text; a reference to hard copy material; and a link.

14. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein the requirements information comprises one or more of an image; text; a reference to hard copy material; and a link.

15. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein each trifle comprises information pertaining to one or more of the following:

knowledge of value for particular subject matter information;  
work of value for particular subject matter information;  
a representation used to capture and communicate particular subject matter information;  
knowledge structures for particular subject matter information;  
a knowledge/task relationship for particular subject matter information;  
a behavioral pattern that distinguishes levels of proficiency in a subject matter;  
a task model feature for tasks in a particular subject matter; and  
a characteristic of existing assessments in a particular subject matter.

16. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein each task model comprises one or more of the following:

- an audience for the task model;
- a method of communicating knowledge for the task model;
- a task feature description for the task model;
- an outcome feature description for the task model; and
- a task family feature description.

17. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein each task comprises the following:  
one or more first items to be presented to the examinee in the performance of the task;

a description of one or more second items to be collected in the performance of the task; and  
one or more task features.

18. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein each assessment comprises one or more of the following:

- a strategy for assembling a grouping of one or more tasks;
- a requirement for presenting material to an assessment participant; and
- a requirement for receiving a response from the assessment participant.

19. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein each evidence model comprises one or more of the following:

- a knowledge, skill or ability to be measured;
- an interpretation of the knowledge, skill or ability based on a response to a task;
- a rule for parsing the response; and
- a rule for producing a value based on the response.

20. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein generating an assessment comprises:

- generating a student model;
- generating one or more task models; and
- generating one or more evidence models, wherein each evidence model corresponds to a task model.

21. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein generating a student model comprises:

- determining an audience for an assessment;
- determining a purpose for an assessment;
- determining at least one knowledge, skill or ability to measure in the assessment;
- generating a student model based on the audience, purpose, and at least one knowledge, skill or ability;
- determining one or more reporting rules for the student model; and
- specifying statistical relationships for one or more variables in the student model.

22. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein generating one or more task models comprises:

generating a task description to be presented to an assessment participant; and generating at least one rule for receiving a response to the task description.

23. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein generating one or more evidence models comprises:

generating at least one rule for parsing a response to a task; and generating at least one value for the parsed response.

24. (New) A computer system for designing an assessment, wherein the computer system includes a computer-readable storage medium containing one or more programming instructions for performing a method of designing an assessment, the method comprising:

receiving subject matter information related to one or more subject matters of an assessment;

receiving requirements information related to one or more requirements for an assessment;

storing the subject matter information and the requirements information in a database;

generating one or more trifles, wherein each trifle is based on one or more of the subject matter information and the requirements information;

storing the trifles in the database;

generating one or more task, student and evidence models, wherein each model is based on at least one trifle;

storing the models in the database;

generating one or more tasks, wherein each task is based on one or more of the task models; and

generating an assessment, wherein each assessment comprises one or more tasks.

25. (New) The computer system of claim 24 wherein the computer-readable storage medium further contains one or more programming instructions for performing the following:

generating a student model;

generating one or more task models; and

generating one or more evidence models.

26. (New) The computer system of claim 24 wherein the computer-readable storage medium further contains one or more programming instructions for performing the following:

determining an audience for an assessment;

determining a purpose for an assessment;

determining at least one knowledge, skill or ability to measure in the assessment;

generating a student model based on the audience, purpose, and at least one knowledge, skill or ability;

determining one or more reporting rules for the student model; and

specifying statistical relationships for the assessment.

27. (New) The computer system of claim 24 wherein the computer-readable storage medium further contains one or more programming instructions for performing the following:

generating a task description to be presented to an assessment participant; and

generating at least one rule for receiving a response to the task description.

28. (New) The computer system of claim 24 wherein the computer-readable storage medium further contains one or more programming instructions for performing the following:

generating at least one rule for parsing a response to a task; and

generating at least one value for the parsed response.

**STATUS AND SUMMARY**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner has further rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,112,049 to Sonnenfeld.

Claims 1-11 have been cancelled.

Claims 12-28 have been added.

Claims 12-28 are pending in this application.